

Newsnote:

The Solar Energy Grid Integration (SEBIS) Solicitation Released

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Solar Energy Grid Integration program was released by Sandia National Laboratories on November 28, 2007. The RFP follows a Request for Information for which Sandia received responses from 35 companies. The SEGIS solicitation is being conducted through Sandia for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Program and is tied to the Solar America Initiative. The SEGIS cost-shared contracts are expected to receive at least \$24M from the DOE through Sandia over the next three years. All contracts will be staged contracts with down sizing anticipated between each stage. Contracts for the first stage, Concept R&D and Market Analysis, will be awarded to up to 14 winning proposals. Follow-on stages include a 1-year prototype development stage and a 1-year stage to advance toward commercialization with pilot production products and extensive analysis is planned.

This SEGIS solicitation is the result of collaboration between Sandia and the DOE. A critical step in organizing the program included Advanced Integrated Inverter and Energy Management Workshops followed by the SEGIS Concept Paper that was co-authored by Chris Cameron, Ward Bower and Dan Ton. The concept paper can be downloaded at http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/solar_america/pdfs/segis_concept_paper_071025.pdf

The SEGIS program concentrates on R&D to develop hardware that will enable high penetration of PV systems into the utility grids of America. The hardware developments will include innovative, highly reliable and advanced inverters, controllers, balance-of-system hardware and energy management systems meet the goals of the program. The anticipated schedule for the program will require proposals by January 21, 2008. Proposal evaluations and selection will follow with anticipated announcements of winners in mid March, 2008. Negotiation and contract placement will follow immediately with contracts being placed in April and early May 2008.

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